

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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### **BROWN CALLS FOR SILVERMAN'S RESIGNATION AS HEAD OF BMV**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Charlie Brown (D-Gary) today called for Joel Silverman to resign as commissioner of the state's Bureau of Motor Vehicles, saying that Silverman was guilty of arrogance and gross incompetence in his handling of license branch issues in the city of Gary.

"The time has passed for the people of Indiana to continue tolerating the antics of this gentleman as he offends citizens and elected officials across this state," Brown said. "He shows no understanding of the needs of the public he is supposed to represent. If he had been elected to office, he would have been recalled well before now.

"However, since he serves at the pleasure of the governor of this state, let me call upon Mitch Daniels to get rid of this man before he plunges our license branch services to even greater depths," he added.

The final straw for Brown and other Lake County officials came today, when Silverman announced that the BMV would close its branch office in Gary and offer services through a facility operated by the Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living, Inc., on West Sixth Avenue.

"After the BMV conducted its public hearing in Gary on August 17, Commissioner Silverman indicated that he was willing to work with local officials to find a way to ensure that branch services would be maintained," Brown said. "Even though a compromise proposal was offered to keep Gary's BMV services in a centralized, accessible location, we heard nothing from the BMV until today's announcement.

"It is obvious that the spirit of compromise means nothing to this commissioner, and his word is no good," he noted. "Commissioner Silverman has been given the charge of gutting a vital branch of state government, all under the guise of saving taxpayer dollars. What he doesn't seem to understand is that he is depriving critical government services at the same time. I don't think this is a fair trade."

In calling for Silverman's resignation, Brown said he realized Daniels would never fire the commissioner because he represented "the corporate philosophy that typifies this administration, one that places little value on the lives of human beings or in understanding that government must serve the people.

"Perhaps this kind of arrogance is held in high esteem in the corporate boardrooms across our country, but the governor and his lackey at the BMV need to realize that they are fooling around with the lives of people when they make such short-sighted decisions and refuse to deal with others humanely," he added. "It is obvious they will learn nothing until Joel Silverman does for the BMV what he did for Galyan's: run it into the ground.

"While that might teach the commissioner something, it will do nothing to help the people of Indiana," Brown said. "The only thing for Commissioner Silverman to do is resign his post now before he can destroy the license branch services of this state beyond all repair."

---30---

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